

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

April 1, 2021

1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Chris Tuck, Chair
Representative Andi Story
Representative Geran Tarr
Representative Matt Claman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative George Rauscher
Representative Laddie Shaw
Representative David Nelson

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Requesting the United States Department of Defense to invest in the Port of Alaska.

- MOVED CSHJR 15 (MLV) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HJR 15

SHORT TITLE: FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN PORT OF ALASKA

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) FIELDS

03/08/21	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/08/21	(H)	MLV
03/25/21	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
03/25/21	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/30/21	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
03/30/21	(H)	Heard & Held
03/30/21	(H)	MINUTE (MLV)
04/01/21	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, provided information and answered questions during the hearing on HJR 15.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:02:30 PM](#)

CHAIR CHRIS TUCK called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Representatives Story, Claman, Tarr, and Tuck were present at the call to order.

HJR 15-FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN PORT OF ALASKA

[1:03:16 PM](#)

CHAIR TUCK announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15, "Requesting the United States Department of Defense to invest in the Port of Alaska."

[1:03:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS, Alaska State Legislature, addressed questions that came up at the last hearing. He said that a letter from Captain Bob Pawlowski, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)(Ret), Vice Chair of the Port of Alaska Port Commission [hard copy in the committee packet], explained that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is not looking at any other locations in Alaska for transportation, which is recognized by DoD quarterly reports affirming the intention and ability to continue to use the Port of Alaska for support. He said that the Port of Alaska is the largest single throughput in the state. According to Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander, Alaskan Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), as the Arctic grows in geopolitical importance, the Port of Alaska grows in importance due to its capacity for transportation of supplies for military bases. He said that since 2012 there have been approximately \$250 million in funding.

[1:05:32 PM](#)

CHAIR TUCK opened public testimony on HJR 15. After ascertaining that no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[1:06:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STORY thanked Representative Fields and the people who provided information.

[1:06:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS thanked Captain Pawlowski, who had the idea for this resolution and did much of the research for it.

[1:06:45 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE TARR moved to report CSHJR 15, Version 32-LS0412\B, Radford, 3/22/21, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note. There being no objection, CSHJR 15(MLV) was reported out of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.

[1:07:46 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.